and infrastructure. The existing programmes of the Ministry are reviewed from time to time and such measures as are felt necessary to increase their effectiveness and sustainability in order to accelerate the pace of development are taken. The outlay for various programmes under the Ministry has been increased to Rs. 8692.00 crores during 1996-97 as against Rs. 8310.00 crores for 1995-96.

Some of the major programmes recently implemented by the Ministry with special focus on backward and under-developed areas include Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and Intensified Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY). The IJRY was implemented from 1993-94 in 120 backward districts in the country where there is a concentration of unemployment and under-employment. With effect from 1.1.1996, IJRY has also been merged with Jawahar Rozgar Yojana which is implemented in all the blocks in the country including tribal, backward and other remote areas. While providing wage employment to people below the poverty line in the primary objective of wage employment programmes, the secondary objective include creation of durable assets for the benefit of the community and also the overall improvement in the quality of life in the rural areas. The Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) which was started from 2nd October, 1993 aims to provide assured employment of 100 days to all persons who are below the poverty line in rural areas and are seeking employment but are unable to find it. The funds under these programmes are distributed in such a way that more funds are given to the backward areas of the country.

Petrol/Diesel Outlet

3897. SHRI PRABHUDAYAL KATHERIA :
SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some cases have come to the notice of the Government during the last three years and in the current year where petrol diesel retail outlets and LPG dealerships have been allotted on the production of bogus SC/ST certificates;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of dealerships out of the above, cancelled so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c). During the last three years i.e. 1993-94 till date, one case of obtaining a retail outlet dealership at Thandl Distt. Jhabua (M.P.) on the basis of wrong ST certificate was brought to the notice of the Government. The dealership has since been terminated.

Development of Towns in Uttar Pradesh

3898. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some proposals for the development of some towns and cities in Uttar Pradesh with foreign assistance are under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the development work of the said towns and cities is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) No proposal for the development of some towns and cities in Uttar Pradesh with foreign assistance is under consideration of the Central Government.

(b) and (c). Question does not arise.

Karnataka Electricity Board

3899. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka Electricity Board has signed a power purchase agreement with the Inox Power Company of New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the above said company is setting up a 39 MW plant at Dharwar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Planetorium

3900. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a scientific planetorium (Tara Mandal) is being conceived to set up in the district of Giridih (Vananchal) to educate the SC/ST, OBC, populated people;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to allocate the required funds for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b). There is no such proposal under consideration in the Ministry of Science and Technology.